

Application No. 10/601,053

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A guardrail terminal as claimed in Claim [[1]] 5, characterized in that wherein said first transverse horizontal retaining member (5) is curved.

3. (Currently Amended) A guardrail terminal as claimed in Claim 2, characterized in that wherein said first transverse horizontal retaining member (5) is curved in the horizontal plane with a constant radius of curvature (r₁).

4. (Currently Amended) A guardrail terminal as claimed in Claim [[1]] 5, characterized in that wherein said first transverse horizontal retaining member (5) comprises at least one segment (12) of corrugated sheet metal with a three-ridge or W-shaped cross section.

5. (Currently Amended) A guardrail terminal comprising:
a plurality of vertical supporting members fixed to the ground one after the
other along the edge of a road:

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a first transverse horizontal retaining member fixed to the vertical supporting members at a height off the ground, and positioned in a horizontal plane so as to extend gradually away from the edge of the road, with the first transverse horizontal retaining member having a first end closer to the edge of the road than a terminal second end; and

a second transverse horizontal retaining member which projects from the second end, curves back in the horizontal plane towards said first transverse horizontal retaining member, and is fixed by a terminal end to said first transverse horizontal retaining member, so as to define, together with the first transverse horizontal retaining member, a substantially tear-shaped collapsible annular member,

~~A guardrail terminal as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that said~~
wherein the second transverse horizontal retaining member (6) further comprises

an initial portion (13) fixed to the terminal second end (5a) of said first transverse horizontal retaining member (5), and bent substantially into an L in the horizontal plane, so as to have, centrally, a given constant radius of curvature (r_2);

an intermediate portion (15) bent substantially into a V in the horizontal plane, so as to have, centrally, a given constant radius of curvature (r_3); and

an appropriately shaped end portion (16), the end of which is fixed directly to said first transverse horizontal retaining member (5).

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6. (Currently Amended) A guardrail terminal as claimed in Claim 5, wherein characterized in that the end portion (16) of said second transverse horizontal retaining member (6) has a first portion and a second portion, and is bent substantially into an S in the horizontal plane, so that ~~it's~~ the first portion has a given first radius of curvature (r₄), and ~~it's~~ the second portion has a given second radius of curvature (r₅).

7. (Currently Amended) A guardrail terminal as claimed in Claim 6, wherein characterized in that the second portion of the end portion (16) of said second transverse horizontal retaining member [(6)] has a radius of curvature (r₅) substantially equal to the radius of curvature (r₁) of said first transverse horizontal retaining member [(5)], so that a portion of the length of the second portion overlaps the first transverse horizontal retaining member.

8. (Currently Amended) A guardrail terminal as claimed in Claim 5, wherein characterized in that said initial portion [(13)], said intermediate portion [(15)], and said end portion [(16)] of said second transverse horizontal retaining member [(6)] are defined by comprise at least one segment [(13, 15, 16)] of corrugated sheet metal with a triple-ridge or W-shaped cross section.